

Message Text

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ORIGIN NASA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-09 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 /089 R

DRAFTED BY NASA/LIC-17/WGBASTEDO
APPROVED BY OES/APT/SACRBEDDINGTON
MHS-7/CISTANTON (DRAFT)
NASA/LI-15/NTERRRELL (DRAFT)
EUR/SE:EJMARCO

-----002994 172104Z /13

P 171850Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
INFO AMCONSUL ADANA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL IZMIR PRIORITY
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 208962

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA

SUBJECT:SPACE SHUTTLE CONTINGENCY PLANNING

REF: ANKARA 5082

1. NASA STILL INTERESTED IN PLANNING FOR USE OF INCIRLIC
CDI AS EMERGENCY LANDING SITE FOR SPACE SHUTTLE. OTHER AIR-
FIELDS IN TURKEY NOT SUITABLE FOR SHUTTLE LANDING PURPOSES.

2.ONE OF THE MANY FACTORS NASA CONSIDERED IN REQUESTING
INCIRLIC USE, AS WELL AS OTHER POTENTIAL CONTINGENCY LAND-
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ING SITES, WAS THAT A US PRESENCE AT ANY LOCATION WOULD
FACILITATE COORDINATION IN THE EVENT OF THE SLIM POSSIBI-
LITY OF EMERGENCY LANDING. THERE WAS NO CONNOTATION IN-
TENDEED THAT INCIRLIC IS CONSIDERED A US BASE. ANOTHER
FACTOR CONSIDERED WAS THAT THERE ARE EXISTING COMMUNICATION
LINES AVAILABLE WHICH WOULD HELP IN PASSING INFO REGARDING
LANDING AND RECOVERY TASKS.

3. NASA REQUEST WAS MADE PURSUANT TO THE TREATY ON PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE ACTIVITIES OF STATES IN THE EXPLORATION AND USE OF OUTER SPACE, INCLUDING THE MOON AND OTHER CELESTIAL BODIES AND THE AGREEMENT ON THE RESCUE OF ASTRONAUTS, THE RETURN OF ASTRONAUTS AND THE RETURN OF OBJECTS LAUNCHED INTO OUTER SPACE. GOT IS SIGNATORY TO BOTH AGREEMENTS.

(A) ARTICLE V OF THE OUTER SPACE TREATY STATES: QUOTE STATES PARTIES TO THE TREATY SHALL REGARD ASTRONAUTS AS ENVOYS OF MANKIND IN OUTER SPACE AND SHALL RENDER TO THEM ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE IN THE EVENT OF ACCIDENTS, DISTRESS, OR EMERGENCY LANDING ON THE TERRITORY OF ANOTHER STATE PARTY OR ON THE HIGH SEAS. WHEN ASTRONAUTS MAKE SUCH A LANDING, THEY SHALL BE SAFELY AND PROMPTLY RETURNED TO THE STATE OF REGISTRY OF THEIR SPACE VEHICLE. UNQUOTE.

(B) ARTICLE 2 OF THE ASTRONAUT RETURN AGREEMENT HAS SIMILAR LANGUAGE: QUOTE. IF, OWING TO ACCIDENT, EMERGENCY OR UNINTENDED LANDING, THE PERSONNEL OF A SPACECRAFT LAND IN TERRITORY UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF A CONTRACTING PARTY, IT SHALL TAKE ALL POSSIBLE STEPS TO RESCUE THEM AND RENDER THEM ALL NECESSARY ASSISTANCE. UNQUOTE.

4. AS SOON AS THE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION REPEALING THE CONFIDENTIAL

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ARMS EMBARGO BECOMES LAW, WE WOULD WANT TO RAISE THIS ISSUE WITH GOT. DECISION NEEDED TO ALLOW PREPARATION OF THE ON-BOARD SHUTTLE COMPUTER PROGRAMS FOR CONTINGENCY LANDING SITES. SINCE NASA ACTIVITIES WILL BE CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO TREATIES CITED PARA 4, THERE IS NO REASON THEY SHOULD BE CONNECTED TO OTHER US ACTIVITIES IN TURKEY. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONTINGENCY PLANNING, AIRPORTS, SPACE PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE208962
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: 17/WGBASTEDO
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780336-1300
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780852/aaaabrsh.tel
Line Count: 101
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2399fc61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NASA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ANKARA 5082
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1706880
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPACE SHUTTLE CONTINGENCY PLANNING
TAGS: TSPA, US, TU, NASA
To: ANKARA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2399fc61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014